

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03595 160405Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02

FRB-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /047 W

-----047132 160406Z /21

R 160339Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3842

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

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FOR EA/ANP

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: EFIN TN

SUBJECT: REPORTED NEW BANKING VENTURE IN TONGA

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY SOURCE THAT MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE ACCURATE THAT GOVERNMENT OF TONGA HAS RECENTLY APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BANK OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, AN INSTITUTION WHICH ORGANIZERS SAY WOULD ACT AS A CATALYST FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE ISLAND NATION. THE NEW VENTURE WHICH SOURCE BELIEVES HAS PERSONAL PATRONAGE OF THE KING, WOULD ALSO FINANCE LOCAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING OF KING'S LONG CHERISHED JET AIRPORT. REPORTEDLY CAPITALIZED AT 20 MILLION DOLLARS, THE PROPOSED BANK WOULD BE GRANTED TAX FREE STATUS FOR 99 YEARS.

2. VENTURE REPORTEDLY BEING UNDERTAKEN BY TWO CANADIANS: EUGENE EHRENHOLZ (6110 Highbury Street, Vancouver),

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RALPH ASSENEAU (5272 UPLAND, DELTA, B.C.), AND A THIRD INDIVIDUAL D.L. SMEATON (PO BOX 781, GEORGETOWN, GRAND CAYMAN). NONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IS APPARENTLY KNOWN IN REGULAR BANKING CHANNELS AND WE HAVE HEARD UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS THAT ONE OR ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN INVOLVED PREVIOUSLY IN QUESTIONABLE VENTURES. WE WERE ALSO ADVISED THAT ALTHOUGH THE KING OF TONGA WAS WARNED TO BE WARY OF

THESE INDIVIDUALS HE HAS STILL CHOSEN TO GO AHEAD WITH
PLANS FOR NEW BANK.

3. FOR VANCOUVER: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU
CAN PROVIDE ON THE INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED ABOVE.

4. FOR EA/ANP: MR CHARLES KLENSKY, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
BANK OF HAWAII IN HONOLULU, MAY BE AWARE OF THE
POSSIBILITY OF A NEW BANK BEING OPENED IN TONGA. AS THE
BANK OF HAWAII ALREADY HOLDS 20 PERCENT INTEREST IN THE
BANK OF TONGA, KLENSKY SITS ON THAT BANK'S BOARD AND
SHOULD BE INFORMED AS TO ANY NEW BANKING ACTIVITIES IN
THE KINGDOM. PERHAPS QUERY TO HIM WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
AND MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION. SELDEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BANK BRANCHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WELLIN03595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770294-0829
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770855/aaaabuoh.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9bdf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
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SAS ID: 1582950
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED NEW BANKING VENTURE IN TONGA
TAGS: EFIN, TN, BANK OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
To: STATE VANCOUVER
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9bdf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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